

## HOUSE RESOLUTION 241

By Favors

A RESOLUTION to commend Reverend Marvin Thomas Billingsley for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those individuals who have answered a divine call to the ministry and who have served with dedication, vigor, and enthusiasm to perform God's work for their congregations and their communities; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Marvin Thomas Billingsley is one such stalwart servant of the Lord who has rendered forty-six years of faithful, selfless, and effective pastoral leadership to several congregations; and

WHEREAS, born on March 14, 1936, in Bakewell, Marvin Thomas Billingsley graduated from Booker T. Washington School before attending A.B.T. Seminary Extension and earning an Associate degree at Chattanooga City College; and

WHEREAS, an avid learner and diligent student, Reverend Billingsley earned both his Bachelor and Master of Theology degrees at International Seminary, and, possessing an unquenchable thirst for knowledge, he continued his studies at Lane College, Interdenominational Theological Center, and Seminary Extension and secured certificates from Vanderbilt Divinity School and Moody Bible Institute; and

WHEREAS, since being ordained at New Monumental Baptist Church in April of 1960, Reverend Billingsley has served with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, using his gifts of teaching and preaching the Word to bring the Lost to Christ; and

WHEREAS, standing as a shining example of Christ's love and forgiveness, Reverend Billingsley tirelessly contributed his time and tremendous talents as the pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church and New Enon Baptist Church before becoming the pastor at Greater Tucker

Baptist Church in Chattanooga, where he has worked assiduously to provide hope and communicate God's love to his congregants and community since 1975; and

WHEREAS, Marvin Billingsley is the author and publisher of *Facts for Your Faith* and *Are You Ready to be Ordained*, and uses his eloquent writing aptitude to compose sermonic material for the National Institute of Christian Education (NICE); and

WHEREAS, a cobbler and leather craftsman by trade, Reverend Billingsley has never lost touch with the common man, always sharing in the ministries of sympathy, witness, and service and seeing to the needs of widows, orphans, his community, and the world; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Billingsley courageously led the struggle to rename East Ninth Street in honor of the late Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, active in a number of religious and civic activities, Marvin Billingsley is a devoted member of Good Neighbors, Inc, the Knoxville Black Church Study Forum, the Task Force on School Reconfiguration, the Tri-State Baptist Conference, New Monumental Baptist Church, the Tennessee B.M.E. State Convention, the Chattanooga-Hamilton County B.M.E. District Association, the Clergy Koinonia of Chattanooga and Vicinity, the Unity Group, the National Baptist Convention, and the Iota Lambda Sigma Fraternity; and

WHEREAS, a deeply spiritual man who has used his education and personal faith to better his community, Reverend Billingsley has held several distinguished positions in a variety of religious organizations, including serving as a commissioner on the Human Rights/Relations Commission; coordinator of the Eastside Downtown Fellowship of Churches; founder and director of the Unity Mission Center; director of the Unity Theological Center; founder of the Church Consulting Service; and adjunct professor, supervisor, and representative of the International Seminary; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Reverend Billingsley is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his wife, Pearl, and he is the proud father of Priscilla McGhee and doting grandfather of Adrian and Camille Davis; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career as a religious leader and humble servant of God, Reverend Billingsley has demonstrated the utmost ability and integrity, winning the

unbridled respect and admiration of his friends, his family, and the many and diverse members of his congregations; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the ministry of Reverend Marvin Thomas Billingsley, commend him for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee, salute his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living a Christian life with courage and conviction, and wish him every continued success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.